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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/783,687	02/20/2004	Edward Behrens	37373-0500	7001
21611 7590 02/23/2007 SNELL & WILMER LLP (OC) 600 ANTON BOULEVARD SUITE 1400 COSTA MESA, CA 92626			EXAMINER BUI, HUNG S	
			ART UNIT 2841	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		02/23/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/783,687

Applicant(s)

BEHRENS ET AL.

Examiner

Hung S. Bui

Art Unit

2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 24-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 24-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02/20/2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-11, 13-15, 17-18, 24 and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Young et al. [US 6,018,456].

Regarding claims 1, 6-9 and 24, Young et al. disclose a rack (figures 1-4), comprising:

- a rack frame (12) to house one or more electrical devices (figure 1);
- an interface column/midplane (20) coupled to the rack frame, the interface column including:
  - o one or more interfaces (22, figure 3) for electrically coupling to one or more electrical devices housed in the rack frame; and
  - o an electrically conductive bus coupled to the one or more interfaces to reduce the number of separate cables running along the rear portion of the rack frame (figure 4);
  - o a control module (column 7, lines 43-57) coupled to the electrically conductive bus in the interface column to provide management access to the one or more electrical device coupled to the interface column.

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Regarding claim 2, Young et al. disclose an interface module (90) coupled to an interface in the interface column, the interface module to uniquely identify an interface and provide access to electrical devices coupled thereto.

Regarding claim 3, Young et al. disclose the interface module is hot-swappable to permit adding or removing electrical device without the need to power off other component in the rack (column 1, lines 29-36).

Regarding claim 4, Young et al. disclose wherein the interface column extends vertically along a rear portion rack frame (figures 1-4).

Regarding claim 5, Young et al. disclose wherein the number of interfaces in the interface column may be added as they are needed (column 6, line 57-column 7, line 5).

Regarding claims 10-11, 13-15, 17 and 28-30, Young et al. further disclose wherein the control module is further configured to provide a connection between the devices and the midplane.

Regarding claim 18, Young et al. disclose a dual power supply electrically is using in the system (figure 8).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. Claims 12 and 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young et al. in view of Bottom et al. [US 2002/0194412].

Regarding claims 12 and 25-26, Young et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the control module provides keyboard, mouse and video access to the interface column.

Bottom et al. disclose a modular server system (figures 1-3) having at least one controller provides keyboard/mouse/serial port and video access through a connector mounted on a midplane and permit electrical devices coupled to the interface column to share a peripheral device.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the controller design of Bottom et al. in Young et al., for the purpose of input data into the computer system.

5. Claims 16 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young et al. in view of Orenshteyn [US 2002/0184398].

Regarding claims 16 and 27, Gamble et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the control module provides centralization security access to the electrical devices.

Orenshteyn discloses a computer system (figures 1-2) using a controlling device that provides centralization security access to electronic device.

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the controller design of Orenshteyn, in the system of Young et al, in order to control and secure operating system.

### ***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 and 24-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung S. Bui whose telephone number is (571) 272-2102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean A Reichard can be reached on (571) 272-1984. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

2/01/07  
**Hung Bui**  
**Art Unit 2841**

  
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